

Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.gov

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BANNER SHOOTING RANGE TO HOST THREE DAYS OF COMPETITION

The Banner Shooting Range at Summerset State Park is hosting two events on Sept. 5, 6 and 7 that are open to shooters of all skill levels.

The range will host a pistol shooting competition on Sept. 5, from 3 to 7 p.m., and Sept. 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. The competition consists of :45 second rounds and each round costs \$2. Shooters may enter as many times as they wish. Shooters under age 21 must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older. The pistol competition is for centerfire, open iron sites only, and no .44 Mag., or 50 caliber pistols will be allowed.

The range will host a 5-stand sporting clay shootout from on Sept. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m. There will be no limit to the number of entries or targets shot per day provided time and space are available. Individuals must shoot their targets in 50 target increments; youths shoot in 25 target increments. The cost is \$12 for adult or juniors for rounds of 50 and \$6 for youths for rounds of \$25.

Prizes will be awarded for both competitions. For more information, go to www.bannershootingrange.com or call 515-961-6408.

Preceding each competition, the Banner Shooting Range will offer a free introduction to shooting, sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation through their program called "FIRSTSHOTS."

This free, 3-hour class is geared for first time shooters interested in learning about shooting handguns, rifles, and shotguns. Participants will learn about firearm safety and will take their first shots with .22 handguns, .22 rifles, and shotguns.

Classes are offered Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 5, 6 & 7, at 10 a.m. Registration is required. Just choose which day works best and call the range 515-961-6408 to register.

For more information, go to
<http://www.bannershootinggrange.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/firstshots.pdf>

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SOAP CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREST OWNERS

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is looking to enhance and improve the 21,000 acres of forestland in the Soap Creek Watershed in southeast Iowa. Paul Tauke, Iowa's State Forester, said \$100,000 has been set aside to assist private landowners in the area with completion of on-the-ground forestry practices.

"The goal of this project is to coordinate and encourage management of DNR owned and privately owned woodlands within the project area. We want to utilize our 4,100 acres of DNR forestland in the area as a springboard to encourage the care and stewardship of the surrounding 21,000 acres of privately owned woodlands," said Tauke.

Interested landowners should contact their DNR district forester or local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Landowners in Davis County can contact Ray Lehn (641) 472-2370 or the Davis County NRCS office at 641/664-2616. Appanoose County landowners should contact Duane Bedford at 641/774-8733 or the Appanoose County NRCS office at 641/856-3293.

The project area includes the Stephens State Forest, Lake Wapello State Park, the Soap Creek Wildlife Area, the Tubaugh Wildlife Management Area and the surrounding areas of private forestland in Davis and Appanoose County.

"It is our goal to develop forest management plans for the DNR forest lands within project area and really step up our management and care of the resource so that we are managing in a way that provides maximum benefit to forest health, wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality and wood fiber production," Tauke said. When the plans on public land are completed, the DNR will hold public meetings to discuss the goals and objectives of each plan and provide the opportunity for stakeholders to review and comment on the plans.

Funding for this project was made available through the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Iowa Division of Soil Conservation and the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau.

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DNR DIRECTOR CONTINUES PUBLIC FORUM SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY AT BACKBONE STATE PARK

DUNDEE, Iowa – Richard Leopold, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is holding public forums weekly around Iowa through early September, with the next session at Backbone State Park beach lodge on Wednesday, Aug. 27.

“I’m looking forward to sharing some of the important initiatives underway within the department, but more importantly, I really want to hear from Iowa’s citizens. One thing I am particularly proud of is the rapport that the DNR has with the public. This is a relationship we value highly within the DNR,” said Leopold.

The public forum begins at 6 p.m. with Director Leopold outlining the department’s top 10 priorities, work being done to develop environmental indicators for the state, providing an update on sustainable funding for natural resources and discussion of local issues. Another hour-and-a-half will be devoted to answering questions from the public.

The remaining public forum is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, at Viking Lake State Park, near Stanton.

For more information, contact Tammie Krausman at 515-402-8763.

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BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN WORKSHOP SET FOR SEPT. 19 - 21

Iowa’s annual Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshop will be held September 19-21, at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center, approximately 1 ½ hours west of Des Moines.

The 2 ½-day workshop provides women a comfortable environment and beautiful setting to learn outdoor skills they may not normally try. BOW is an international program aimed primarily at women, but is an opportunity for anyone 18 years and older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits. Classes offered throughout the weekend include introduction to firearms, basic shooting, basic fishing, knot tying, river fishing, fly fishing, archery, turkey and deer hunting basics, Dutch oven cooking, canoeing, kayaking, bird watching, map and compass, and much more.

“We have been providing BOW workshops in Iowa for nearly 15 years and they continue to be very popular, well-attended events,” says Julie Sparks, BOW coordinator. “It’s a wonderful opportunity for participants to get enough instruction and hands-on learning to feel confident pursuing these activities. We have a great team of dedicated instructors and an awesome location for the workshop.”

Registration continues, but the workshop is filling fast, she said. A registration form is available online at <http://www.iowadnr.com/bow/index.html>

For more information, contact Julie Sparks at 515-281-6159 or Julie.sparks@dnr.iowa.gov.

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